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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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# BOROUGH OF LLANIDLOES

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

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## BOROUGH OF LLANIDLOES

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chairman | - | Alderman H. N. Meredith. |
| Members | - | Alderman H. J. B. Watkins (Mayor).<br>Councillor E. Williams.<br>Councillor W. E. Jones.<br>Councillor A. J. Davies.<br>Councillor Mrs. A. M. Shimmin. |

STAFF:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Medical Officer of Health | - | Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. |
| Public Health Inspector | - | J.Ll.Williams, M.B.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. |

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1956 on the health and sanitary conditions in your Borough, and which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 19/56 (Wales).

## Staff

There were no staff changes in the year under review.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

The birth rate for 1956 was 12.45 per 1,000 population compared with 11.64 in 1955. This rate for the Urban districts in the County was 14.92 and in the whole County 15.0.

There were no Still births in 1956 nor in 1955. For the urban districts the Still birth rate was 2.6% of Live births and in the whole County 1.8%.

There were no illegitimate births in 1956 nor in 1955. In the urban districts the rate of illegitimate births was 3.7% total births and in the whole County 3.94%.

### Infant Mortality

There was one death of an infant under 1 year, giving an infant mortality rate of 34 per 1000 live births compared with 74 per 1,000 in 1955.

The rate for the urban districts was 26 per 1,000 and for the whole County this rate was 30 per 1,000.

This infant death was due to prematurity.

### Deaths

There were 36 deaths from all causes, giving a rate of 15.45 per 1,000 population. This rate in 1955 was 19.83. This rate in the urban districts was 12.78 and in the whole County 12.19.

### National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act. In connection with this, tribute must be paid to the Home Help Service. There are many elderly people in the Borough living alone. Some of them are fit and well enough to care for themselves satisfactorily.

Some have relatives close by who keep a watchful eye on them. Others are kept at home, cared for by the faithful Home Helps. The Welfare Committee of the County Council have provided delightful homes for the elderly - one of the most beautiful being at Llanidloes. Nevertheless many elderly people are reluctant to leave their own homes and their own possessions and in these cases the Home Help Service has proved invaluable.

Infectious Diseases

There was no outbreak of any infectious disease in the Borough in 1956.

Mr. J. Ll. Williams has again been a very reliable colleague, and to him my thanks are due for his co-operation on any matter - and which is so readily given.

The Public Health Committee is an active one, greatly concerned with the many problems concerning the health of the Borough - not least the poor standard of housing that exists in some parts of the Town.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

County Health Offices,
NEWTOWN.

June, 1957.

# VITAL STATISTICS

(Based on the Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate)

| | 1956 | 1955 |
|---|---|---|
| Area in acres | 617 | 617 |
| Population (Registrar General's Mid-year Est. | 2,330 | 2,320 |
| Rateable Value | £19,400 | £9,837 |
| Sum represented by penny Rate | £70 | £35-8-9d |

## Live Births

| | 1956 | | | 1955 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Legitimate | 15 | 14 | 29 | 12 | 15 | 27 |
| Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | 14 | 29 | 12 | 15 | 27 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 population:- | | | | | | |
| (a) For Llanidloes | | 12.45 | | | 11.64 | |
| (b) For Urban areas in the County | | 14.92 | | | 15.53 | |
| (c) For Montgomeryshire | | 15.0 | | | 14.87 | |

STILL BIRTHS - None.
Rate for the County 1.8% of live births.

## Deaths

| | 1956 | | | 1955 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| All ages | 19 | 17 | 36 | 28 | 18 | 46 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population:- | | | | | | |
| (a) For Llanidloes | | 15.45 | | | 19.83 | |
| (b) For Urban Districts | | 12.78 | | | 12.70 | |
| (c) For Montgomeryshire | | 12.19 | | | 12.57 | |

## Infant Mortality.

| | 1956 | 1955 |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 1 | 2 |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | | |
| (a) For Llanidloes | 34 | 74 |
| (b) For Urban Districts | 26 | 25 |
| (c) For Montgomeryshire | 30 | 28 |

## Age at Death - All Causes.

| | 1956 | | | 1955 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 0 - 1 year | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 1 - 5 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 45 - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55 - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 65 - | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| 75 - | 7 | 7 | 14 | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| 85 and over | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | 19 | 17 | 36 | 28 | 18 | 46 |

## Causes of Death.

| | 1956 | | | 1955 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Tuberculosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic Disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meningocele Infections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Infective and parasitic diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Malignant neoplasm-stomach | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| " Lung, bronchus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| " Breast | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 |
| " Uterus | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Leukaemia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Coronary Disease (Engina) | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | 1956 | | | 1955 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Other Heart Disease | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Other Circulatory Disease | 3 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Influenza | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ulcer of stomach, duodenum | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Gastric, Enteritis, Diarrhoea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nephritis, nephrosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Congental malformation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| All other accidents | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 19 | 17 | 36 | 28 | 18 | 46 |

## TUBERCULOSIS

There was one new case of tuberculosis notified during the year. This was a youth of 19 with pulmonary involvement.

Two cases were removed from the register, having left the district:-

(1) A male who was aged 14 in 1941 when he was notified with the cervical glands and the lungs affected.
(2) A female of 40 with pulmonary tuberculosis who moved into the district in 1955.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis in 1956.

At the end of the year there were 30 cases of notified tuberculosis living in the Borough.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are notifiable are :-

Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Acute Poliomyelitis, Measles, Diphtheria, Dysentry, Meningococical infections, Acute Pneumonia Small-pox, Acute encephalitis, Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever, Erysipelas, Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified in 1956.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

Ambulance The local Service consists of the St.John's Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee. Telephone LLANIDLOES 381.

Sitting Car Services All requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown. Telephone NEWTOWN 205.

Children's Officer This Office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948. The Officer is -

Mr. S. M. Parsons,
County Offices,
Welshpool. Telephone WELSHPOOL 3311.

The Children's Reception Home is at -

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. Telephone WELSHPOOL 109.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing The Borough is served by Sister R.E.Jones, Dudley House, Llanidloes. Telephone LLANIDLOES 244. Her District also covers Cwmbelan, Llangurig and Old Hall.

Home Help Service The Home Help Service continues to provide help in certain cases, on application to the Supervisor -

Mrs. R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices,
Newtown. Telephone NEWTOWN 205.

This is an invaluable Service providing domestic help for the aged, infirm, during home confinements and in cases of illness.

Care of the Aged This Service is provided by the Welfare Department of the County Council, and the local Home established for the care of the aged is at Dol-llys.

Hospitals Llanidloes is in the Mid-Wales Management Committee area, based at Aberystwyth. The Llanidloes War Memorial Hospital has 16 beds, 4 of which are for midwifery.

Laboratory Service Frequent use is made of the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Cardiganshire General Hospital under the direction of Dr.M.N.U.Sudds (Telephone ABERYSTWYTH 216), for the testing of the Borough's water supply.

Maternity and Child Welfare The County Council is responsible for this Service.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held on the second and last Wednesdays of each months in the afternoon at the Assembly Room at the Station.

Dental Clinic During 1956 two full time Dental Officers were employed by the County Council and Clinics were held at the Town Hall, Llanidloes, for the treatment of school children.

Tuberculosis This Service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

Dr.G.O.Thomas, the Chest Physician, holds Clinics at the local Hospital on the Saturday before the last Tuesday in each month at 10.30 a.m.

Vaccination Vaccination against Small Pox is carried out by the local general practitioners.

Protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at approximately 9 months to 1 year, followed by a booster dose at 5 years. The value of a high record of immunisation is borne out by the fact that there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough for many years.

However, it is the practice now, if the child has not had whooping cough, to offer these injections combined, i.e., against diphtheria and whooping cough. In this case 3 injections are given at monthly intervals, starting at about 5 - 6 months, and still requiring a booster dose when the child goes to school.

Protection against Poliomyelitis In 1956 a small amount of Poliovirin was made available to vaccinate children born in the years 1947 - 1954. Because of the limited amount of vaccine children were selected by the month of their birth. However, with increasing supplies, it is hoped to be able to vaccinate in 1957 all the children whose parents have consented and to extend it to children born in 1955 and 1956.

Because of the fact that this vaccine has to be stored at a certain temperature, and because of the still fairly restricted supplies, vaccination is carried out by the Medical Officers employed by the County Council at Schools and Clinics throughout its area.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply Approval in principle was received from the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the scheme of improvements to the distribution system prepared by the Consulting Engineers.

Stage 1 of the Scheme, to bring immediate relief to the serious shortage of water experienced in the Dyfnant area of the Town was carried out successfully. Stages 2 and 3 were amended as suggested by the Ministry and are now awaiting approval in detail. The Scheme was altered to incorporate a filtration and chemical dosing plant to afford complete treatment of the raw water.

The supply of water has been ample and satisfactory, and frequent samples of treated water submitted for bacteriological examination were all graded "Highly Satisfactory".

Rainfall during the year was 43.5" which is 10" below the average rainfall for the perious 7 years.

The average daily consumption of water was 110,000 gallons, giving 47 gallons per head of population per day.

Drainage and Sewerage The construction of the divertor station at the Long Bridge was completed in November, and all sewage is now treated at the Sewage Disposal Works before entering the River Severn.

The working of the sewage farm has been satisfactory, the irrigation areas have all been ploughed and several minor improvements carried out by direct labour.

The main 9" sewer in Smithfield Street became choked due to subsidence and an 8' length was renewed and 72 yards dredged. All this work was also carried out by direct labour.

The drains and sewers have otherwise been working satisfactorily and flushed regularly. The sewer serving Cwmdu was choked on four occasions due to the small amount of water discharged into it in relation to the solids, but more frequent flushing has kept it from giving further trouble.

Public Cleansing Weekly collection of household and trade refuse has been maintained and the refuse tip at Penpontpren well looked after.

The number of premises from which refuse was collected increased to 936.

Regular scavenging of the 2.26 miles of Borough roads has been carried out.

Shops and Stalls When the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force all premises concerned were visited and a number of improvements carried out voluntarily by the owners and where requested. The total number of visits thus made was 176.

The following table indicates the number and type of food premises in the Borough:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Butchers shops with manufacturing premises | 2 |
| Butchers shops and stalls | 5 |
| Fried fish and chip shops | 2 |
| Ice Cream Vendors | 5 |
| Fishmongers | 3 |
| Grocers | 18 |
| Bakers | 4 |
| Confectioners | 8 |
| Hotels and Public Houses | 13 |
| Greengrocers | 2 |
| Cafes | 3 |

## D A I R I E S

A new Dairy was constructed and a bottling licence for tuberculin tested milk granted.

From April 10th only designated milks were allowed to be retailed in the Borough and the one raw milk vendor ceased.

Two retailers supply Tuberculin Tested Milk and one Pasteurised Milk.

## S C H O O L S

There is one Primary and Bi-lateral school in the area and 9 visits were made during the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA FOR NUISANCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Inspections made | 170 |
| Nuisances found | 31 |
| Dirty Houses | 1 |
| Drains choked | 18 |
| Drains defective | 8 |
| W.C.'s defective | 7 |
| Accumulations of refuse | 2 |
| Overcrowding | 3 |
| Informal notices served | 11 |
| " " complied with | 11 |
| Statutory notices served | 3 |

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK PLACES

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of factories registered | 13 |
| " " workshops " | 10 |
| " " workplaces " | Nil |
| " " factory bakehouses | 3 |
| " " other " | 1 |
| " " inspections made | 49 |
| " " defects or nuisances found | 2 |
| " " " " " remedied | 2 |

Housing Report 22 houses and flats were completed during the year. Plans for a further 43 houses were drawn up by Messrs D. Mervyn Edwards and Moreton and tenders approved for the erection of 20 of the houses for slum clearance purposes.

Markets and Slaughterhouses There are 2 Markets under the control of the Council and one privately owned slaughterhouse.

The cattle mart and market were inspected weekly and cleansed immediately after use on each occasion.

The slaughterhouse is visited daily and kept in good order.

### Carcases Inspected.

| | Cattle. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep. | Pigs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number slaughtered | 133 | Nil | 2 | 1429 | 265 |
| " inspected | 127 | Nil | 2 | 1369 | 254 |

### Condemnations

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All diseases other than Tuberculosis** | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | Nil | Nil | 1 | 4 | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 17 | Nil | Nil | 69 | 6 |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. | 13.4 | Nil | 50 | 5.04 | 2.05 |
| **Tuberculosis only** | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 2 |
| Percentage of number of carcases inspected and affected with T.B. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 0.79 |

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